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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

Re: Docket Nos.: 96N-1230 96P-0418 97P-0197

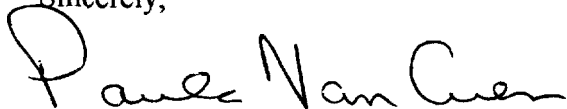
I am responding to your request for public comments on reducing egg-borne diseases due to contaminated eggs. I believe there are a couple of things you can do to help eliminate the problem.

1. Put warning labels on egg cartons and instructions on proper refrigeration/cooking of eggs.
2. Ban the practice of forced molting of egg-laying hens. This practice has been shown to increase the likelihood of diseases due to it destroying the hens' immune system. Forced Molting is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and most importantly, people who eat those eggs. Europe and, I believe, Australia have banned this practice effective 10 years from now. My understanding is that the FDA has the authority to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that harm people.

The FDA received a petition back in April 1998 to ban forced molting. In light of the harm that is due to contaminated eggs laid by forced molted hens, this petition should be granted immediately.

Thank you for considering my suggestions. I look forward to hearing the outcome of this.

Sincerely,



Paula Van Curen

96P-0418

C213

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20857/0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C213*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C214*
96P-0418/ *C213*